LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7394 NOTE PREPARED: Jan 11, 2009

BILL NUMBER: HB 1515 BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: County Bridge Fund.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. GiaQuinta

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: GENERAL IMPACT: Local

X DEDICATED FEDERAL

<u>Summary of Legislation:</u> This bill changes the name of the fund that may be established by certain counties for bridge construction purposes from the major bridge fund to the county bridge fund. It allows the county bridge fund to be used for constructing, maintaining, or repairing bridges, approaches, or grade separations with respect to structures other than major bridges. It provides that in a county that establishes a county bridge fund, the county executive is responsible for providing funds for all bridges within the county, including those in municipalities, except bridges on the state highway system.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues: Under current law, the executive of a county whose population is between 100,000 and 700,000 and which has a major obstruction between its commercial or population centers is authorized to provide a major bridge fund for the construction of major bridges. To provide for the fund, the executive may levy a tax on all taxable property within the county. The rate may not exceed \$0.0333 on each \$100 of assessed valuation of property.

The bill renames the major bridge fund as the county bridge fund. It makes the county executive responsible for the maintenance of all the bridges in the county except those on the state highway system. Additionally, it authorizes the fund to be used for constructing, maintaining or repairing bridges, approaches or grade

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separations of other structures other than major bridges.

Under current law, Allen, Elkhart, Hamilton, LaPorte and St. Joseph counties have a county major bridge fund. In CY 2008, these counties could have potentially levied a maximum of approximately \$30.5 M in property tax revenue for their major bridge fund; they levied about \$10.5 M. Appropriations were approximately \$8 M. The requirements of this bill could possibly increase future expenditures from the fund resulting in an increase in the property tax levy. The amount of the increase is indeterminable at this time and dependent on local action.

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Local Government Database

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